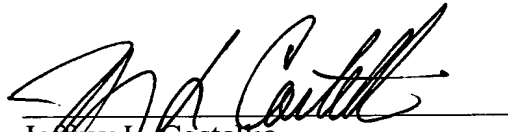


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct the multiple dependencies therein and cancelled claims 23-27. Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey L. Costella  
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000